United Nations A/63/390

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 November 2008
English
Original: French

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 90

Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Coly **Seck** (Senegal)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled:

"Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly:

"(a) United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services;

"(b) United Nations Disarmament Information Programme;

"(c) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

"(d) United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament;

"(e) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons;

"(f) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific;

"(g) Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

"(h) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa"

was included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions 61/91 and 61/95 of 6 December 2006, 62/49, 62/50, 62/51, 62/52 and 62/53 of 5 December 2007 and 62/216 of 22 December 2007.

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2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 6 October 2008, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 81 to 96, which was held at the 2nd to 8th meetings, from 6 to 10 and on 13 and 14 October (see A/C.1/63/PV.2-8). The Committee also held 11 meetings, from 14 to 17, from 20 to 24 and on 27 October, for an exchange of views with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials, as well as panel discussions with independent experts and follow-up to resolutions and decisions adopted at previous sessions (see A/C.1/63/PV.8-18). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 8th to 18th meetings, from 14 to 17, from 20 to 24 and on 27 October (see A/C.1/63/PV.8-18). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 19th to 22nd meetings, from 28 to 31 October (see A/C.1/63/PV.19-22).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services (A/63/129);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (A/63/157);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme (A/63/162);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (A/63/163);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (A/63/164);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (A/63/178).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.13

5. At the 17th meeting, on 24 October, the representative of Peru, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean" (A/C.1/63/L.13).

6. At the 22nd meeting, on 31 October, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, provided by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Peru orally revised operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution by inserting the words "in all countries of the region" after the words "to further develop activities".

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.13, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 28, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.15

9. At the 10th meeting, on 16 October, the representative of India, on behalf of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, El Salvador, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Samoa, the Sudan and Viet Nam, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons" (A/C.1/63/L.15). Subsequently, Cambodia, Colombia and Fiji joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

10. At its 19th meeting, on 28 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.15 by a recorded vote of 110 to 50, with 11 abstentions (see para. 28, draft resolution II). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Marshall Islands, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Serbia, Uzbekistan.

C. Draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.24

11. At the 16th meeting, on 23 October, the representative of Indonesia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament" (A/C.1/63/L.24). Subsequently, Fiji joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

12. At the 22nd meeting, on 31 October, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, provided by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

13. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.24 without a vote (see para. 28, draft resolution III).

D. Draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.42

14. At the 17th meeting, on 24 October, the representative of Nepal, on behalf of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific" (A/C.1/63/L.42). Subsequently, Afghanistan, Australia, China, Fiji, Japan, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nauru, New Zealand and Thailand joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

15. At the 22nd meeting, on 31 October, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, provided by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

16. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.42 without a vote (see para. 28, draft resolution IV).

E. Draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.46

17. At the 17th meeting, on 24 October, the representative of Angola, on behalf of Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Liberia, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa" (A/C.1/63/L.46).

18. At the 20th meeting, on 29 October, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, provided by

the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

19. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.46 without a vote (see para. 28, draft resolution V).

F. Draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.49

20. At the 18th meeting, on 27 October, the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of Algeria, Angola, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Chile, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Swaziland, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services" (A/C.1/63/L.49). Subsequently, Australia, Bangladesh, the Central African Republic, China, Croatia, Fiji, Guyana, Iceland, Liberia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, the Republic of Moldova and Serbia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

21. At its 21st meeting, on 30 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.49 without a vote (see para. 28, draft resolution VI).

G. Draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.50/Rev.1

22. At the 18th meeting, on 27 October, the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa" (A/C.1/63/L.50/Rev.1). Subsequently, Bosnia and Herzegovina joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

23. At its 21st meeting, on 30 October, the Committee had before it a revised text of the draft resolution.

24. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, provided by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

25. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.50/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 28, draft resolution VII).

H. Draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.53

26. At the 15th meeting, on 22 October, the representative of Mexico, on behalf of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, South Africa, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme" (A/C.1/63/L.53). Subsequently, Argentina, Canada, Fiji, and Norway joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

27. At its 21st meeting, on 30 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.53 without a vote (see para. 28, draft resolution VIII).

III. Recommendations of the First Committee

28. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, 42/39 K of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 H of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, with headquarters in Lima,

Recalling also its resolutions 46/37 F of 9 December 1991, 48/76 E of 16 December 1993, 49/76 D of 15 December 1994, 50/71 C of 12 December 1995, 52/220 of 22 December 1997, 53/78 F of 4 December 1998, 54/55 F of 1 December 1999, 55/34 E of 20 November 2000, 56/25 E of 29 November 2001, 57/89 of 22 November 2002, 58/60 of 8 December 2003, 59/99 of 3 December 2004, 60/84 of 8 December 2005, 61/92 of 6 December 2006 and 62/49 of 5 December 2007,

Recognizing that the Regional Centre has continued to provide substantive support for the implementation of regional and subregional initiatives and has intensified its contribution to the coordination of United Nations efforts towards peace and disarmament and for the promotion of economic and social development,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,[1] which states, inter alia, that during the period under consideration, the Regional Centre undertook an extensive review of its past and present programme of activities which reaffirmed its identity as a specialized regional centre for the promotion and execution of peace, disarmament and development activities, in accordance with its mandate and in compliance with requests from Member States throughout the Latin American and Caribbean region,

Deeply concerned that, as mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General, in the absence of assessed contributions from the United Nations regular budget, the provision of voluntary financial contributions is of crucial importance for the operation and activities of the Regional Centre, in particular core funding, the lack of which could seriously hinder the Centre's ability to efficiently carry out its mandate and respond to the increasingly diversified and numerous requests from States,

Taking note with interest of the suggestion of the Secretary-General that Member States may wish to consider alternative means of ensuring stable core funding for the Centre,

Recalling the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development,[2] referred to in General Assembly resolution

[1] A/63/157.

[2] See A/59/119.

59/78 of 3 December 2004, which is of utmost interest with regard to the role that the Regional Centre plays in promoting the issue in the region in pursuit of its mandate to promote economic and social development related to peace and disarmament,

Noting that security and disarmament issues have always been recognized as significant topics in Latin America and the Caribbean, the first inhabited region in the world to be declared a nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Welcoming the support provided by the Regional Centre to strengthening the nuclear-weapon-free zone established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco),[3] as well as to promoting and assisting the ratification and implem ntation of existing multilateral agreements related to weapons of mass destruction and to promoting peace and disarmament education projects during the period under review,

Bearing in mind the important role of the Regional Centre in promoting confidence-building measures, arms control and limitation, disarmament and development at the regional level,

Bearing in mind also the importance of information, research, education and training for peace, disarmament and development in order to achieve understanding and cooperation among States,

Recognizing the need to provide the three United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament with sufficient financial resources and cooperation for the planning and implementation of their programmes of activities,

1. *Reiterates its strong support* for the role of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the promotion of United Nations activities at the regional level to strengthen peace, stability, security and development among its member States;

2. *Expresses its satisfaction* for the activities carried out in the last year by the Regional Centre in the areas of peace, disarmament and development, and requests the Centre to take into account the proposals to be submitted by the countries of the region in promoting confidence-building measures, arms control and limitation, transparency, disarmament and development at the regional level;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide from the regular budget, starting in the biennium 2010-2011, the necessary support to ensure the sustainability of the core activities and operations of the Regional Centre, in order to enable it to carry out its programme of activities in accordance with its mandate;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* for the political support and financial contributions to the Regional Centre, which are essential for its continued operation;

5. *Appeals* to Member States, in particular those within the Latin American and Caribbean region, and to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations to make and to increase voluntary contributions to strengthen the Regional Centre, its programme of activities and the implementation thereof;

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[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, No. 9068.

6. *Invites* all States of the region to continue to take part in the activities of the Regional Centre, proposing items for inclusion in its programme of activities and making greater and better use of the potential of the Centre to meet the current challenges facing the international community with a view to fulfilling the aims of the Charter of the United Nations in the areas of peace, disarmament and development;

7. *Recognizes* that the Regional Centre has an important role in the promotion and development of regional initiatives agreed upon by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the field of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons, as well as in the relationship between disarmament and development;

8. *Encourages* the Regional Centre to further develop activities in all countries of the region in the important area of disarmament and development;

9. *Highlights* the conclusion contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, that, through its activities, the Regional Centre has demonstrated its role as a viable regional actor in assisting States in the region to advance the cause of peace, disarmament and development in Latin America and the Caribbean;[4]

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean".

[4] See A/61/157, para. 49.

Draft resolution II
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons

The General Assembly,

Convinced that the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to the survival of mankind,

Bearing in mind the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996 on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*,[1]

Convinced that a multilateral, universal and binding agreement prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would contribute to the elimination of the nuclear threat and to the climate for negotiations leading to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons, thereby strengthening international peace and security,

Conscious that some steps taken by the Russian Federation and the United States of America towards a reduction of their nuclear weapons and the improvement in the international climate can contribute towards the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons,

Recalling that paragraph 58 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly[2] states that all States should actively participate in efforts to bring about conditions in international relations among States in which a code of peaceful conduct of nations in international affairs could be agreed upon and that would preclude the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Reaffirming that any use of nuclear weapons would be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity, as declared in its resolutions 1653 (XVI) of 24 November 1961, 33/71 B of 14 December 1978, 34/83 G of 11 December 1979, 35/152 D of 12 December 1980 and 36/92 I of 9 December 1981,

Determined to achieve an international convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons, leading to their ultimate destruction,

Stressing that an international convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons would be an important step in a phased programme towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, with a specified framework of time,

Noting with regret that the Conference on Disarmament, during its 2008 session, was unable to undertake negotiations on this subject as called for in General Assembly resolution 62/51 of 5 December 2007,

1. *Reiterates its request* to the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations in order to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances;

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly on the results of those negotiations.

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[1] A/51/218, annex; see also *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 1996*, p. 226.

[2] See resolution S-10/2.

Draft resolution III
United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 60/83 of 8 December 2005, 61/90 of 6 December 2006, and 62/50 of 5 December 2007 regarding the maintenance and revitalization of the three United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament,

Recalling also the reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa,[1] the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific[2] and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,[3]

Reaffirming its decision, taken in 1982 at its twelfth special session, to establish the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme, the purpose of which is to inform, educate and generate public understanding and support for the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms control and disarmament,[4]

Bearing in mind its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, 42/39 D of 30 November 1987 and 44/117 F of 15 December 1989 on the regional centres for peace and disarmament in Nepal, Peru and Togo,

Recognizing that the changes that have taken place in the world have created new opportunities as well as posed new challenges for the pursuit of disarmament, and, in this regard, bearing in mind that the regional centres for peace and disarmament can contribute substantially to understanding and cooperation among States in each particular region in the areas of peace, disarmament and development,

Noting that in paragraph 91 of the Final Document of the Fourteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Havana, on 15 and 16 September 2006, the Heads of State or Government emphasized the importance of the United Nations activities at the regional level to increase the stability and security of its Member States, which could be promoted in a substantive manner by the maintenance and revitalization of the three regional centres for peace and disarmament,[5]

1. *Reiterates* the importance of the United Nations activities at the regional level to advancement in disarmament and to increase the stability and security of its Member States, which could be promoted in a substantive manner by the maintenance and revitalization of the three regional centres for peace and disarmament;

2. *Reaffirms* that, in order to achieve positive results, it is useful for the three regional centres to carry out dissemination and educational programmes that promote regional peace and security that are aimed at changing basic attitudes with

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[1] A/63/163.

[2] A/63/178.

[3] A/63/157.

[4] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Plenary Meetings*, 1st meeting, paras. 110 and 111.

[5] See A/61/472-S/2006/780, annex I.

respect to peace and security and disarmament so as to support the achievement of the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

3. *Appeals* to Member States in each region and those that are able to do so, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to the regional centres in their respective regions to strengthen their activities and initiatives;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of the activities of the regional disarmament branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary support, within existing resources, to the regional centres in carrying out their programmes of activities;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament".

Draft resolution IV
United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/39 D of 30 November 1987 and 44/117 F of 15 December 1989, by which it established the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and renamed it the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, with headquarters in Kathmandu and with the mandate of providing, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by the Member States of the Asia-Pacific region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, through appropriate utilization of available resources,

Welcoming the relocation of the Regional Centre from New York to Kathmandu in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/52 of 5 December 2007,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1] in which he expresses his belief that in cementing its partnership with States in the Asia-Pacific region and other stakeholders, the Centre will be the primary United Nations regional entity advocating the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda,

Expressing its appreciation to the Regional Centre for its important work in promoting confidence-building measures through the organization of meetings, conferences and workshops in the region, including conferences held in Sapporo, Japan, from 27 to 29 August 2007 and in Seoul from 5 to 7 December 2007,

Concerned with the report of the Secretary-General, in which he indicates that the Regional Centre urgently needs more core funding for its staffing and operations to allow it to sustain its work and be in a position to respond to the requests for technical assistance from countries of the region,[2]

Appreciating the timely execution by Nepal of its financial commitments for the relocation of the Regional Centre,

1. *Welcomes* the relocation of the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific from New York to Kathmandu and its coming into operation on 18 August 2008;

2. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Nepal for its cooperation and financial support, which allowed the new office of the Regional Centre to be opened in Kathmandu;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General and the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat for making the necessary preparations with a view to ensuring the physical operation of the Regional Centre from Kathmandu to enable the Centre to function effectively;

4. *Appeals* to Member States, in particular those within the Asia-Pacific region, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations

[1] A/63/178.

[2] Ibid., para. 25.

and foundations, to make voluntary contributions, the only resources of the Regional Centre, to strengthen the programme of activities of the Centre and the implementation thereof;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide from the regular budget, starting in the biennium 2010-2011, the necessary support to ensure the sustainability of the core activities and operations of the Regional Centre, in order to enable it to carry out its programme of activities in accordance with its mandate;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the necessary support to the Regional Centre for greater achievements and results, within existing resources, until the regular budget is approved;

7. *Reaffirms its strong support* for the role of the Regional Centre in the promotion of United Nations activities at the regional level to strengthen peace, stability and security among its Member States;

8. *Underlines* the importance of the Kathmandu process for the development of the practice of region-wide security and disarmament dialogues;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific".

Draft resolution V
Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 62/53 of 5 December 2007,

Recalling also the guidelines for general and complete disarmament adopted at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Bearing in mind the establishment by the Secretary-General on 28 May 1992 of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the purpose of which is to encourage arms limitation, disarmament, non-proliferation and development in the subregion,

Convinced that the resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of the developing countries,

Considering the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken on the initiative and with the participation of all States concerned and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, since such measures can contribute to regional stability and to international peace and security,

Convinced that development can be achieved only in a climate of peace, security and mutual confidence both within and among States,

Recalling the Brazzaville Declaration on Cooperation for Peace and Security in Central Africa,[1] the Bata Declaration for the Promotion of Lasting Democracy, Peace and Development in Central Africa[2] and the Yaoundé Declaration on Peace, Security and Stability in Central Africa,[3]

Bearing in mind resolutions 1196 (1998) and 1197 (1998), adopted by the Security Council on 16 and 18 September 1998 respectively, following its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[4]

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the capacity for conflict prevention and peacekeeping in Africa, and welcoming the partnership established between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States for that purpose,

1. *Reaffirms its support* for efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels in order to ease tensions and conflicts in Central Africa and to further peace, stability and sustainable development in the subregion;

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[1] A/50/474, annex I.
[2] A/53/258-S/1998/763, annex II, appendix I.
[3] A/53/868-S/1999/303, annex II.
[4] A/52/871-S/1998/318.

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, and encourages the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission to support efforts for the political stabilization and reconstruction of post-conflict countries;

3. *Welcomes* the significant progress made by the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, under the "Sao Tome Initiative", with respect to the drafting of a legal instrument on the control of small arms and light weapons in Central Africa and of a code of conduct for defence and security forces in Central Africa, in particular the decision by the twenty-seventh ministerial meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee, held in Luanda from 13 to 15 May 2008, to complete the process of drafting the code of conduct with a view to its possible adoption during the twenty-eighth ministerial meeting and the decision to examine during the same meeting a draft text containing elements drawn from relevant legal instruments on small arms and light weapons, and encourages interested countries to provide their financial support for the implementation of these two projects;

4. *Encourages* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to continue their efforts to promote peace and security in their subregion;

5. *Also encourages* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to continue their efforts to render the early-warning mechanism for Central Africa fully operational as an instrument for analysing and monitoring the political situation in the subregion within the framework of the prevention of crises and armed conflicts, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary assistance for its smooth functioning;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of providing the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with the essential support they need to carry out the full programme of activities which they adopted at their ministerial meetings;

7. *Appeals* to the international community to support the efforts undertaken by the States concerned to implement disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue their assistance to the countries of Central Africa in tackling the problems of refugees and displaced persons in their territories;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide their full assistance for the proper functioning of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa;

10. *Urges* Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support the activities of the Standing Advisory Committee effectively through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to support the ongoing efforts of the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee, including through provision of the assistance needed to ensure the success of their regular biannual meetings;

12. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa".

Draft resolution VI
United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Recalling its decision, contained in paragraph 108 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[2] the first special session devoted to disarmament, to establish a programme of fellowships on disarmament, as well as its decisions contained in annex IV to the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly,[3] the second special session devoted to disarmament, in which it decided, inter alia, to continue the programme,

Noting that the programme continues to contribute significantly to developing greater awareness of the importance and benefits of disarmament and a better understanding of the concerns of the international community in the field of disarmament and security, as well as to enhancing the knowledge and skills of fellows, allowing them to participate more effectively in efforts in the field of disarmament at all levels,

Noting with satisfaction that the programme has trained a large number of officials from Member States throughout its thirty years of existence, many of whom hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament within their own Governments,

Recognizing the need for Member States to take into account gender equality when nominating candidates to the programme,

Recalling all the annual resolutions on the matter since the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, in 1982, including resolution 50/71 A of 12 December 1995,

Believing that the forms of assistance available to Member States, in particular to developing countries, under the programme will enhance the capabilities of their officials to follow ongoing deliberations and negotiations on disarmament, both bilateral and multilateral,

1. *Reaffirms* its decisions contained in annex IV to the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly[3] and the report of the Secretary-General[4] approved by the Assembly in its resolution 33/71 E of 14 December 1978;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to all Member States and organizations that have consistently supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success, in particular to the Governments of Germany and Japan for the continuation of extensive and highly educative study visits for the participants in the programme, to the Government of the People's Republic of China

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[1] A/63/129.

[2] Resolution S-10/2.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Annexes*, agenda items 9-13, document A/S-12/32.

[4] A/33/305.

for organizing a study visit for the fellows in the area of disarmament in 2007 and to the Government of Switzerland for organizing a study visit in 2008;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies for having organized specific study programmes in the field of disarmament in their respective areas of competence, thereby contributing to the objectives of the programme;

4. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the diligence with which the programme has continued to be carried out;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to implement annually the Geneva-based programme within existing resources and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services".

Draft resolution VII
United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

The General Assembly,

Mindful of the provisions of Article 11, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations stipulating that a function of the General Assembly is to consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and arms limitation,

Recalling its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 D of 3 December 1986, 42/39 J of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 D of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, and its resolutions 46/36 F of 6 December 1991 and 47/52 G of 9 December 1992 on regional disarmament, including confidence-building measures,

Recalling also its resolutions 48/76 E of 16 December 1993, 49/76 D of 15 December 1994, 50/71 C of 12 December 1995, 51/46 E of 10 December 1996, 52/220 of 22 December 1997, 53/78 C of 4 December 1998, 54/55 B of 1 December 1999, 55/34 D of 20 November 2000, 56/25 D of 29 November 2001, 57/91 of 22 November 2002, 58/61 of 8 December 2003, 59/101 of 3 December 2004, 60/86 of 8 December 2005, 61/93 of 6 December 2006 and 62/216 of 22 December 2007,

Aware of the role of the Regional Centre in promoting confidence-building and arms-limitation measures at the regional level,

Taking into account the need to establish close cooperation between the Regional Centre and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, in particular its institutions in the field of peace, disarmament and security, as well as with relevant United Nations bodies and programmes in Africa for greater effectiveness,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1] in which he stated that an increase in the Regional Centre's human and operational capacity would enable it to discharge its mandate in full and to respond more effectively to requests for assistance from African States,

Deeply concerned that, as noted in the report of the Secretary-General, despite the decision taken in Khartoum in January 2006 by the Executive Council of the African Union, in which the Council called upon member States to make voluntary contributions to the Regional Centre to maintain its operations, no such funds have been received to ensure its operations,[2]

Recalling that, in its resolution 60/86, it requested the Secretary-General to establish, within existing resources, a consultative mechanism of interested States, in particular African States, for the reorganization of the Regional Centre,

Taking note of the concrete recommendations on the Regional Centre's future work programme, as well as on its staffing and funding, made by the Consultative

[1] A/63/163.

[2] Ibid., para. 32.

Mechanism for the Reorganization of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa upon the conclusion of its work,[3]

1. *Notes* the implementation of the recommendations of the Consultative Mechanism for the Reorganization of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa to fund the Centre's operating costs and three new posts from the regular budget of the Organization;[4]

2. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Regional Centre to align its actions with the priorities identified in the recommendations of the Consultative Mechanism;

3. *Welcomes* the undertaking by the Regional Centre of new initiatives and projects in the fields of security sector reform and practical disarmament measures, as detailed in the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

4. *Urges* all States, as well as international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to strengthen the programmes and activities of the Regional Centre and facilitate their implementation;

5. *Urges*, in particular, States members of the African Union to make voluntary contributions to the Regional Centre's trust funds in conformity with the decision taken by the Executive Council of the African Union, in Khartoum in January 2006;[2]

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate closer cooperation between the Regional Centre and the African Union, in particular in the areas of peace, security and development;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the necessary support to the Regional Centre for greater achievements and results;

8. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa".

[3] See A/62/167.

[4] See resolution 62/216, para. 4.

Draft resolution VIII
United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision taken in 1982 at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament, by which the World Disarmament Campaign was launched,[1]

Bearing in mind its resolution 47/53 D of 9 December 1992, in which it decided, inter alia, that the World Disarmament Campaign should be known thereafter as the "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme" and the World Disarmament Campaign Voluntary Trust Fund as the "Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme",

Recalling its resolutions 51/46 A of 10 December 1996, 53/78 E of 4 December 1998, 55/34 A of 20 November 2000, 57/90 of 22 November 2002, 59/103 of 3 December 2004 and 61/95 of 6 December 2006,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,[2]

1. *Welcomes* the launch of the new United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs website,[3] and invites Member States and other users to make use of its expanded content and specialization;

2. *Commends* the Secretary-General for his efforts to make effective use of the limited resources available to him in disseminating as widely as possible, including by electronic means, information on arms control and disarmament to Governments, the media, non-governmental organizations, educational communities and research institutes, and in carrying out a seminar and conference programme;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme as a significant instrument in enabling all Member States to participate fully in the deliberations and negotiations on disarmament in the various United Nations bodies, in assisting them in complying with treaties, as required, and in contributing to agreed mechanisms for transparency;

4. *Commends with satisfaction* the launch of *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* for 2007, with new format and content, as well as its online edition, by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the cooperation of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and its information centres in pursuit of the objectives of the Programme;

6. *Recommends* that the Programme continue to inform, educate and generate public understanding of the importance of multilateral action and support for it, including action by the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament, in the field of arms control and disarmament, in a factual, balanced and objective manner, and that it focus its efforts:

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[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Plenary Meetings*, 1st meeting, paras. 110 and 111.

[2] A/63/162.

[3] http://www.un.org/disarmament.

(a) To continue to publish in all official languages *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, the flagship publication of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs;

(b) To continue to maintain the disarmament website as a part of the United Nations website and to produce versions of the site in as many official languages as feasible;

(c) To continue to intensify United Nations interaction with the public, principally non-governmental organizations and research institutes, to help further an informed debate on topical issues of arms limitation, disarmament and security;

(d) To continue to organize discussions on topics of interest in the field of arms limitation and disarmament with a view to broadening understanding and facilitating an exchange of views and information among Member States and civil society;

7. *Recognizes* the importance of all support extended to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme, and invites once again all Member States to make further contributions to the Fund with a view to sustaining a strong outreach programme;

8. *Takes note* of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General,[4] which reviews the implementation of the recommendations made in the 2002 study on disarmament and non-proliferation education;[5]

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report covering both the implementation of the activities of the Programme by the United Nations system during the previous two years and the activities of the Programme contemplated by the system for the following two years;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme".

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[4] A/63/158 and Add.1.

[5] A/57/124.